

HAPPENINGS in the BIG CITIES

Scene in Savannah Brought Back the Old Days

SAVANNAH, GA.—Recently there was a scene in Savannah which brought back to many older residents the flourishing days of slavery, when a man's wealth was gauged by the number of negroes he owned. A group of former slaves gathered in front of the municipal building to receive from a committee of Savannah citizens gifts of a substantial nature that had been provided for them by the business men along the famous Bay street, where so many wealthy cotton factors and others do business. None was less than eighty years old and some claimed to be "ninety gold" on a hundred. They were mostly men, but there were one or two women among them. Women who as young and healthy black "wenches" had been worth from \$1,500 to \$2,000 each during the days before the sixties, when negroes were valued solely by the money their healthy bodies would bring if offered for sale in the slave marts at New Orleans, Richmond, Milledgeville, Ga., and other places, were there, as were many broken and decrepit men.

Some of the old negroes in the group about the entrance of the city hall on this bright day probably remembered being brought to Savannah by their owners and placed in safekeeping underneath the Palmetto hotel, a Savannah hostelry, about one hundred years old. This hotel is within a stone's throw of the city hall, where this year's bounty was distributed, and it had a great reputation in the days before the sixties as one of the big hotels of the South, where a gentleman and his lackey, with the knowledge that when the time came for him to continue his journey his men and women would be turned back to him, well fed and well cared for. The Palmetto made a specialty of this kind of patronage, and today its cellar, far under the ground, is honey-combed with slave cells. They are of sufficient size to be comfortable, but are in most cases as dark as Egyptian blackness itself. Light seldom penetrates into their deep recesses. More than a hundred remain, and in the times when space was at a premium for this kind of entertainment there were more.

Chicago Slicker Has an Adventure in New York

NEW YORK.—Leonard Anderson is one of those slickers from Chicago who just adores his profession of detecting. He came back the other day after a year's visit to relatives in Norway and he just chucked all the way over on the boat over how he was going to fool all the crooks in Gotham.

While in Norway he did as the Norwegians sometimes do and raised a crop of whiskers which afforded him a disguise that would not result in some crook shouting "take 'em off, Len, we know you." He was aching to get to work behind his King Lear and took to a room at a cheap hotel near the steamship piers. He doctored an immigrant's cap and started joyously to Shorlock Holmes around. Two affable strangers fell into conversation with him. He could hardly keep a straight face it was that ludicrous. In answer to their sympathetic and interested questioning, he informed them that he had a roll of \$100 in his pocket. It was a delicious situation, indeed, and he felt it was a big joke.

That is he felt it for a second or so and then somehow someone turned off the sunshine and he didn't feel anything because one of the affable strangers affably tapped him on the head with a restless blackjack and the other removed the money and verified the amount.

Anderson identified himself with little trouble at the hospital, promptly visited a barber and took the first train in the direction of Chicago.

Northampton Rooster Captures a Bad Raccoon

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.—A desperate battle between two coons and two prize roosters broke the quiet of Northampton early one morning. The coons had been the object of a frenzied two-day search by the members of the Masonic street engine company, from whose large and varied menagerie of pets they had escaped. The battle field was the fancy henry of J. J. Kennedy on King street, and the other combatants were two of his prize roosters.

It was in the small hours of the morning when the two miscreants sneaked around the henry door and peeped in. There, roosting in neat orderly rows, was their breakfast. They stealthily entered. Each picked his first choice, in each case a large rooster. One spring, and things started. Round and round the struggle raged. The multiplicity of wives of each of the defendants, seeing their noble lords and masters so beset, stood on their toes, fluttering their wings and squawking. The squawks woke Mr. Kennedy, who immediately hurried reinforcements.

When he arrived at the battlefield, one of the roosters was hors de combat and his assailant had made good his escape. The other coon was vainly trying to, but with an infuriated rooster firmly attached to the end of his tail, even a wily coon hasn't time to think just where the door was when he came in. The proverbial bulldog has nothing on Mr. Kennedy's roosters once they get a good "bolt."

The rooster's bill was pried apart and the coon released. The penton firemen received their pet again in good shape, except for a sore tail, in exchange for the price of one perfectly good prize rooster, suitable only for boiling. The firemen are watching for their other coon, the coon in captivity is contemptuously watching the end of his tail and swearing off on chickens, and the other poultry fanciers of Northampton are double-locking their coops and keeping a weather eye open for early morning squawks.

New York Women Are Drilling for Possible War

NEW YORK.—Major Thier, trim and severe in his regimentals, stood in the door of the Ninth Artillery armory, in Fourteenth street near Sixth avenue, the other night and with mingled pain and disdain upon his face watched the invasion of the fair. Girls, scores of girls, and women, old women, divided into squads, marched and counter-marched upon the polished floor, directed by smiling young soldiers.

In the middle stood Gen. (Mrs.) J. Hungerford Milbank, head of the American Woman's League for Self-Defense, with a clanking sword at her side and martial fire blazing from her eyes. Major Thier glanced from the general to Col. (Miss) Ida Vera Simonton, whose khaki skirt, designed originally for the exploring trips she has made through the jungles of Africa, was much shorter than he approved. He snorted.

"What I want to know is," he said, "what're these women going to do with this. What does this mean?"

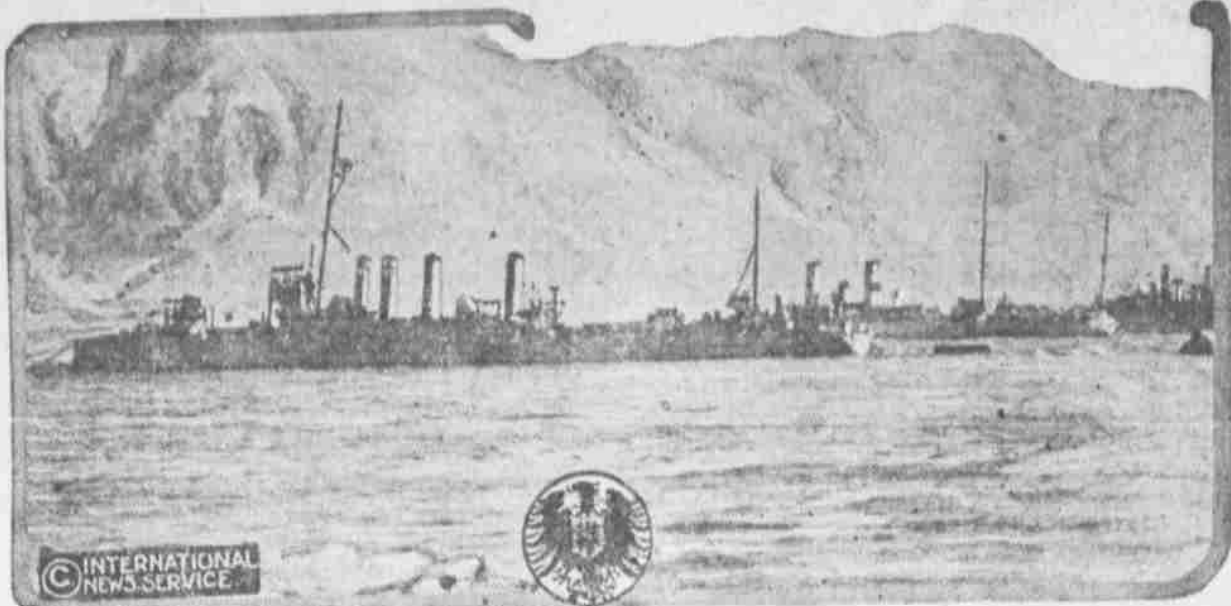
An eager member of the league informed him that if war came General Milbank would not hesitate to take her companies of girl soldiers right into the field—yes, into Mexico if necessary. "Good night!" ejaculated Major Thier, as he waved his hand despairingly. A little later the anti-suffrage major was overheard telling one of his subordinates to order the soldiers who were drilling the girls to carry themselves straighter and put their caps straight on their heads. The girls, he said, carried themselves a lot better than the men did.

SHARK BIT THE ADMIRAL.

Charles Sturatt, a sailor, of 210 West Twenty-ninth street, was arrested recently on complaint of Rear Admiral William N. Little, U. S. N., retired. The charge was obtaining money under false pretenses.

The police say Sturatt called at Rear Admiral Little's home, 239 West Seventy-sixth street, on January 31, wearing the uniform of a navy sailor. He said he was Robert C. Dobbins, attached to a ship lying in Boston navy yard and was out of funds and unable to return to his vessel. He showed a check on a Boston bank for \$6. Rear Admiral Little indorsed it and the police say Sturatt cashed it. Recently it was found the check was no good.—New York World.

GERMAN FLEET WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO SLIP OUT



First photograph to arrive in this country showing a portion of the German fleet. It is believed the photograph was taken at Wilhelmshaven, but the exact location was withheld by the censor.

PENS PICTURE OF VERDUN BATTLE

Correspondent Gets a Glimpse of the Great Struggle in France.

TELLS A TALE OF HORROR

French Artillery Batters Down Dikes of the Meuse, Flooding Field of Fallen Germans—Grim Fight for Life.

In the Village, Northwest of Verdun—Yesterday I witnessed a great battle, the climax of the Verdun struggle, writes a special correspondent of the New York Times and the Chicago Herald. What a fury of charge and counter-charge of two nations at grips on the blood-stained slopes among the shell-torn trenches these words could convey! In reality it is very different. Imagine yourself in the dark cabin of a ship, the whole fabric of which shudders in the tumult of her mighty engines as you peer through a narrow slit at a quick-changing cinema on a distant screen. For that was the Verdun battle as I saw it, save that those rapid glimpses revealed horrors no producer would dare feature.

Captain A. had led me through a maze of trenches to an observation post buried deep in a hillside due south of Cunieres village.

Two officers and some soldiers are at work regulating the fire of a battery two miles in the rear upon the German trenches down to our right, near the river, where the enemy is massing for an assault. At the same time they directed a searchlight whose rays illuminate their field of vision.

"Follow the searchlight and you will soon pick out the German trenches and see the effects of our fire," says my guide. It is a patch of field, streaked diagonally by a dark line, which is the German trench. Clouds of smoke obscure it at intervals, stabbed by swift flashes.

I watch intently. Nothing changes. Then the observer throws another order into the telephone and a second ray doubles the field of view. It turns toward his companion at the table and reels off figures in a

POPULAR IN ARMY SET



Miss Helen Hoffer, daughter of Jay E. Hoffer, U. S. A., is one of the most popular of the socially active army contingent in Washington.

Jailed for a Laugh.

New York.—Because he laughed when Magistrate Groehl imposed a one-dollar fine, John Oste, charged with disorderly conduct, was sent to jail for three days.

Duck Makes Record.

Verone, N. J.—"Peggy," a duck, has laid 325 eggs in 343 days, and is said to hold the record.

IS RESTORED BY PRAYER

Confined to Invalid Chair for 16 Years Man Is Able to Walk After Service.

Greensburg, Pa.—A remarkable experience took place in the life of Walter McClellie, seventy years old, of Youngwood, following a congregational prayer service recently at his home, which was conducted by Rev. John Watson of the United Brethren church at Youngwood.

level, unburied tone. The latter transmits more figures to the soldier, who has resumed his telephoning. Suddenly the field patch is covered with scurrying dots, like a mass of excited ants, rushing forward across the light, out of the picture into the darkness. It is the enemy charging at last.

Then a dense thunder-cloud covers everything. The searchlight's rays beat vainly against its yellowish walls. The glass trembles in my hand.

Like a nightmare vision, conjured by magic amid the smoke, a horrible scene is revealed; first dimly, then clearer and finally very distinct, in the sharp white light.

The field, the dark line and the rushing ants have disappeared. In their place a ragged hollow, wherein blocks of earth like huge tree trunks roll and quiver.

Among them the tiny dark things are writhing like fallen leaves fluted by the breeze. Those shapeless objects are German soldiers.

As the smoke cleared I distinguished arms raised in agony or supplication. Some try to crawl upward; they form heaps, sliding back together as one mounts another and drags him down.

Meanwhile from the right of the scene what seems to be an immense blacksnake creeps forward. In the ray of the light it glimmers, and the observer beside me muttered: "My God!"

It reaches the lip of the hollow and the mass of crawling men quiver with a new agitation. It is the water of the Meuse overwhelming the Germans by the same concentration of malice that ruptured the river's dikes. With frantic gestures the Germans light up

ward. There comes a flash and another cloud-patch, half veiling the chaos of earth and water and drowning men.

Then the shells begin to fall rapidly and the searchlight abandons the struggle against the smoke, swinging higher along the bare hill side. A few moments later it returns I see a placid pool glimmering beneath the ray, save where a glimmering spot of blackness is floating motionless.

I look at my watch. Three hours have passed since we entered the post. That is what I saw of the great battle for Verdun.

LONG JOURNEY OF AN EGG

Consumer Paid Twenty Cents a Dozen More Than Producer in Kansas Got.

Russell, Kan.—A. J. Olson, a Russell county farmer who sells hundreds of dozens of eggs annually, on February 9 wrote on a request for the consumer to write him and inform him where the egg was purchased at retail and what the cost was.

Olson sold his product to a Russell dealer for 25 cents a dozen. The eggs were then shipped to Ellsworth, from where they were shipped to Pendleton, Ore., by express.

The Oregon retail merchant paid 34½ cents a dozen, and they were retailed at 45 cents, that being the price paid by the woman in Oregon who broke the egg hearing Olson's letter. Olson received a letter from her recently, and she gave the details of the egg's career and end in the far Northwest.

E-7'S EXPLOITS IN SEA OF MARMORA

British Submarine in 24 Days Sank 23 Ships and Destroyed Two Trains.

ALSO FOUGHT A GUNBOAT

Returned Safely Through Traps and Mines Set to Catch Her in the Dardanelles—Receives Great Reception.

New York.—The story of how the British submarine E-7 entered the Sea of Marmora and operating for 24 days sank 23 ships, shelled two railway trains, and did other damage, is told in a letter received in New York. The letter was written by a young officer who was on the E-7. The Cochrane who is referred to as "absolutely splendid" is the commander of the E-7. He says:

"We returned safely after 24 days upon the Dardanelles in the Sea of Marmora. It is hopeless to try to give a detailed account in a letter, but you can take it from me it was a one show. We broke all previous records. Cochrane was absolutely splendid. The tale of our doings is the sort of thing one reads of in the old days. We went around the Sea of Marmora, leaving a trail of sunk and burning ships. We fairly shook things to the core.

"We are the first submarine in history to bombard a place on shore under fire. I think we were under fire about three times a day on an average, and penetrated into all sorts of places and destroyed shipping. We even shelled a railway and destroyed two troop trains. We shelled the embankment and blocked the line and then caught the trains as they came along. It was the funniest thing you can imagine to see the trains try to hide behind trees, but we caught them and smashed them all to blazes. The ammunition all blew up with a terrible explosion. The soldiers, of course, got out and took cover and fired tons of ammunition at us, but we were out of range.

"Altogether we sunk one gunboat, five steamers (one of 3,000 tons), and 17 large sailing ships, and hit two trains, one railway embankment, and a few villages who fired on us and got it in the neck for doing so. We also dived up to Constantinople and fired a torpedo at the wharf at the arsenal, where there were a lot of ammunition lighters, and there was a

most terrific explosion, which shook the boat although we were one and one-quarter miles away. What happened I don't know, but something must have got in the neck, judging by the bang. We had a small duel with a small gunboat one day on the surface and drove her off, although she fired 200 rounds from her two guns. After that we were left alone and everything ran like blazes when we got anywhere near.

"The only drawback was that we all had dysentery, and Halifax, the second officer, and a seaman got badly burned setting fire to a steamer, so Cochrane and I had to keep watch all the time, and by the time 24 days were gone we were absolutely done up. What Halifax went through with his burned feet for three weeks below I don't know.

"We had no trouble in diving in the Sea of Marmora, but when we came down we had an awful time, as the Turks had rigged up all sorts of nets and things to catch us, and we got mixed up in them and also were fouled by mines three times.

"The reception we got in the harbor was great. The whole fleet and every thing manned the rails and cheered us madly. Just imagine us—all dirty and unshaven, and the flag with bullet holes all over it, and coming tower all dents from bullets and rusty—steaming through the lines and thousands of men cheering like mad. Battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats, transports and the captains leading the cheers. It was great! I have heard cheers before, but this was the real thing. Poor old Cochrane's eyes were full of tears as he saluted to the cries of 'Are we down-hearted?' and 'Well done, E-7!'

"At present I am resting on land and basking in the light of popular favor. It is very nice to be a hero among one's own cloth, you know, because they really mean it, and they really understand."

KILLS THREE BIG WOLVES

Lives of 525 Deer Estimated to Have Been Saved by Work of Oregon Hunter.

Portland, Ore.—Three gray wolves killed by Jake Dumont of Tillamook, Ore., will net him \$75. The state pays a bounty of \$20 each and the county pays \$5 additional.

The pelts were received at the office of the state fish and game commission and showed the wolves to have been of unusual size. One was fully seven feet from tip of nose to tail and the two others were not more than six inches shorter.

Carl D. Shoemaker, state game warden, estimates that the death of the wolves saved 525 deer. He says that one wolf would kill an average of 175 deer a year.

the service he found he was able to walk about the house. The next morning he went to the coal shed and carried in a bucket of coal for his daughter, Mrs. Ralph Ross, without experiencing any dizziness.

Coughing Changes His Voice.

New York.—By repeatedly coughing and clearing the throat a person with a falsetto voice may change it to barytone, if he persists in the treatment, declares Dr. Frank M. Hallock of Cornell university medical school.

NATIONAL CAPITAL AFFAIRS

Warning Issued Against False Weather Prophets

WASHINGTON.—The department of agriculture of the United States has issued a warning to the public against credence in so-called new systems, astrological and otherwise, of forecasting weather conditions. Belief in these systems, the notice asserts, often proves disastrous to farmers and other folk whose enterprises are affected by atmospheric or other weather conditions. The warning against these fallacies says:



"The latest misrepresentation of this character now being presented to the people of the country is an alleged new system of long-range weather forecasting said to be based on the rifts and spottedness of the sun and its shafts of solar radiation. When the disk of the sun is minutely examined with the aid of the modern spectrograph the surface presents a characteristic spotted appearance which undergoes slight changes from day to day, and greater changes with longer intervals of time, depending upon the well-known rotation of the sun upon its axis and the periodic recurrence of the sunspot maxima and minima.

"These and certain well-known related phenomena are represented to be the basis of the so-called discovery. "During the past several years the weather bureau has received, in the form of letters, circulars, diagrams and blue prints, full specifications concerning all essential details of this alleged new system of forecasting. The so-called discovery is fully known to the weather bureau and has received fair and impartial study and examination by its scientific staff. Moreover, other scientists of international reputation now connected with the strongest institutions in solar and terrestrial physics have also passed upon these new theories.

"These authorities are in accord that the deductions and conclusions drawn from the solar conditions on which the new system is based are unwarranted. Solar phenomena of the kind described do not have any direct influence upon the weather at any particular time and place, and, therefore, cannot be made the basis of weather forecasting.

"Spacious references to the moon, to the planets and to the spottedness of the sun and its shafts of radiation alleged to dominate terrestrial weather are but picturesque frameworks upon which to display weather forecasts for sale."

Bill to Regulate Podiatry Stumped Colonel Hall

"A BILL to regulate the practice of podiatry in the District of Columbia," Col. L. J. Hall, the chief bill clerk of the house of representatives, scratched his head. This has been the habit of men perplexed since Adam became worried about the insidious activities of the first serpent.

During the years that he has been connected with the billroom of the house, Colonel Hall has handled bills and resolutions covering almost every topic under the sun. But here was a bill, introduced by Congressman Maher of New York, to curb the practice of podiatry, and proposing, furthermore, "to protect the people from empiricism in relation thereto." The new man in the bill clerk's office averred he didn't know such a thing existed in the District of Columbia, although he'd always had his suspicions. The evils of a city, he complained, pass all understanding.

And then it dawned upon Colonel Hall and the bill clerks! "Podiatry? Why, that's corn doctoring. You know the corn doctors of our boyhood days?"

Why, of course. It is but a commentary on the passing of the old order of things. Podiatry, it seems (although few ever knew it was that), must go the way of sassafras tea, blumness and cologne, fresh-drawn herb juice and the odoriferous saw-fella bag that hung warningly about one's neck.

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Mrs. Wilson and Flowers of the White House

AS FAR back as one can remember White House chateaux have been devoted to flowers and have taken great pride in having the bit of ground just back of the right wing planted with the flowers each has liked best. Mrs. Roosevelt chose to have it fitted with so-called old-fashioned roses, while Mrs. Taft preferred only roses.

The flower associated with Mrs. Wilson is the large orchid, the cultivation of which in this particular garden would be out of the question. Mrs. Wilson has worn the orchid at all society affairs, and, indeed, all times since her engagement to the president was announced. Before that time she was usually seen with great bunches of violets as a corsage bouquet, or the pure white gardenia fastened somewhere to the left of her throat.

The most beautiful foliage as a background for orchids is the maiden-hair fern, which, when separated from the root, will so quickly that it must constantly be replenished. It would seem that this has been arranged for in Mrs. Wilson's case by the quantity of potted ferns placed in every available spot throughout the White House. These are sent from the White House conservatories, where they are raised to perfection. There are several varieties of the maiden-hair, each one of which seems to be more beautiful than the others.

The great lawn which stretches from the portico of the White House toward the Potomac is pretty well inclosed in shrubbery and dotted with fine trees of every species. Surrounding the whole place is an iron fence, directly inside of which is a hedge of privet, planted during the administration of President Taft. So rapidly does this favorite hedge shrub grow that it already has become a formidable barrier for those who enjoy seeing the president's grounds, even if they cannot walk upon them. It will not be many more years before the White House inclosure will be as much walled in as are the grounds around Buckingham palace and the other homes of Europe's monarchs.

Woodlawn Mansion May Be Summer White House

WOODLAWN MANSION, the home of Nellie Curtis Lewis, in the historic Mount Vernon district of Fairfax county, Virginia, will be the "summer capital," unless rumor has run away. President Wilson and his wife have made several trips to the Woodlawn neighborhood in the past few weeks.

Woodlawn is located about sixteen miles south of Washington and there are splendid roads for motoring between the two points.

The Mexican situation and necessity for frequent conferences with his advisers over European war problems that confront him give color to the gossip that the president may find it advisable to spend the summer nearer Washington than the summer home recently selected in New Jersey, and it is possible that Virginia may wrest that distinction from the Northern state.

Woodlawn mansion was erected in 1805 by Maj. Lawrence Lewis and his wife, Nellie Curtis Lewis, and is considered the statelyst of all of the manor houses of the upper Potomac.

The property is now owned by Miss E. M. Sharpe, who spends much of her time with relatives in Pennsylvania. A former owner is Paul Kester, the playwright, who now owns and occupies Belmont, a fine old mansion, on the hills overlooking the Potomac a short distance north of Alexandria. Both Mr. Kester and Miss Sharpe are said to have spent large sums in improvements at Woodlawn.

CANDLE DRIP BETRAYS THIEF.

Tallow drops on the floor of the vault of the S. Morgan Smith company, manufacturers of water wheels, led to discovery of a theft of drawings and photographs valued at more than \$10,000. Albert H. Myers, a trusted draftsman, has been arrested, admits the crime and has been committed to jail in default of \$4,000 bail.

Most of the blue prints and photographs have been recovered by Detective Charles S. White. It is believed Myers intended to sell them to a rival concern.—York (Pa.) Dispatch Philadelphia Record.